

Message Text

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ACTION HEW-06

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1414

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DEPT PASS TO DHEW/OIH, DR. JAMES KING; DR. DONALD FREDERICKSON,
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, JA, US

SUBJECT: NEWS STORY CLAIMS NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH INVOLVEMENT
IN CIA MEDIAL EXPERIMENTS

REF: TOKYO 11473

1. GOJ FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL (TANAKA, FIRST NORTH AMERICA
DIVISION, AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU) CALLED EMBASSY TODAY TO DRAW
ATTENTION TO STUDY APPEARING IN AUGUST 5 ISSUE OF MAINICHI
VERNACULAR NEWSPAPER. STORY IS DATELINED WASHINGTON, AUG. 4,
AND WRITTEN BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT ISHIMARU. IT DWELLS AT
LENGTH ON RELEASE BY CIA OF 58 DOCUMENTS ON AUG. 4 CONCERNING
ALLEGED TESTS ON HUMAN SUBJECTS OF NARCOTICS AND OTHER DRUGS, AND
ON ALLEGED CIA RESEARCH IN PSYCHIATRY, RADIOACTIVITY, ETC.
ARTICLE REFERS TO TWO CIA PROJECTS CALLED, IN PHONETIC JAPANESE,
TRANSLITERATION OF ENGLISH, "MUKARUTORA" AND "MUKADERUTA".
LAST PARAGRAPH OF ARTICLE READS AS FOLLOWS:

"ACCORDING TO THE PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS, CIA AUTHORITIES ORDERED
THE DESTRUCTION OF ALL DATA RELATED TO THE MUKARUTORA PROJECT,
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IN A DIRECTIVE IT ISSUED UNDER THE DATE OF JANUARY 31, 1973. THIS

FACT, TOO, SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT CIA AUTHORITIES HAD RECOGNIZED THE INHUMANE CHARACTER OF THE SAME PROJECT. THE PARTICIPANTS IN THIS PROJECT, HOWEVER, WERE NOT LIMITED TO THE CIA, BUT INCLUDED SUCH ORGANIZATIONS AS THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH) UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT."

2. TANAKA NOTED THAT PUBLICATION OF ARTICLE IN INFLUENTIAL NEWSPAPER MAY CAUSE ADVERSE REACTION TO USG EFFORTS TO OBTAIN GOJ AGREEMENT FOR AWARD OF NIH BIOMEDICAL GRANTS OR CONTRACTS TO NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES.

3. COMMENT: PUBLICATION OF ARTICLE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE UNTIMELY FROM POINT OF VIEW OF USG INTERESTS. DEPT. AND DHEW WILL RECALL THAT WHEN CIA EXPOSE STORIES WERE APPEARING SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, GOJ OFFICIALS CALLED EMBOFFS ON NUMBER OF OCCASIONS TO ASK IF CIA WAS INVOLVED IN SUPPORT OF NIH RESEARCH. EMBOFFS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON RESPONDING TO INQUIREIS CONCERNING CIA, VIGOROUSLY OBJECTED TO INQUIREIS AND REFERRED TO USG STANDING POLICY CONCERNING SUCH ALLEGATIONS. THE GOJ OFFICIALS DID NOT PURSUE MATTER FURTHER.

4. IN RECENT WEEKS, SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN MADE IN RESOLVING LONG-STANDING ISSUE OF AWARD OF NIH CONTRAVTS TO GOJ NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES AND INSTUTIONS (SEE REFTEL). RAISING OF CIA SPECTRE AGAIN MAY CAUSE IRREPARABLE HARM TO NEGOTIATIONS. END COMMENT.

5. FOR BACKGROUND, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ASAP TEXT OF ANY STATEMENTS IN RELEASED CIA REPORTS PERTAINING TO NIH AND ANY GUIDANCE POSSIBLE ON WHAT CAN BE SAID TO FOREIGN OFFICE. WITHIN CONSTRAINTS OF ESTABLISHED POLICY OF NOT COMMENTING ON ALLEGATIONS INVOLVING CIA. SHOESMITH

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